

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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FOR TOM OFFENBURGER FROM UNA

FOL RPT CAIRO 21099 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, TEL AVIV & JERUSALEM
INFO ALGIERS, AMMAN, ABU DHABI, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, DOHA, JIDDA,
KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, MANAMA, MUSCAT, RABAT, SANA, TRIPOLI, TUNIS,
BRUSSELS, MOSCOW, BAGHDAD & USIA WASHDC DTD 10 DEC 77

QUOTE: UNCLAS CAIRO 21099

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJ : VANCE-SADAT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

DEPT FOR S/PRS AND PASS NSC FOR DR. BREZESINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
GIVEN BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND SECRETARY VANCE AT THE
PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE AT THE BARRAGES NEAR CAIRO ON
DECEMBER 10.

VANCE

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I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE THIS MORNING OF MEETING WITH PRESID-
ENT
SADAT AND EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO THE FORTHCOMING
CAIRO MEETINGS AND OUR JOINT SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION
TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST. I TOLD PRESIDENT SADAT
OF THE GREAT ADMIRATION AND RESPECT WHICH ALL OF US HAVE FOR THE
HISTORIC EVENTS WHICH HE SET IN MOTION WITH HIS COURAGEOUS
TRIP TO JERUSALEM. A NEW MOMENTUM HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE
PEACE PROCESS BY THS BOLD INITIATIVE AND WE IN THE UNITED
STATES SHALL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWER TO HELP MAINTAIN

THAT MOMENTUM. OUR OBJECTIVE REMAINS A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. THERE ARE MANY THINGS WHICH HAVE TO BE DONE TO PAVE THE WAY TO AN ULTIMATE MEETING AT WHICH A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED. THE GENEVA MEETINGS WILL BE THE ULTIMATE MEETING AT WHICH THAT COULD BE ARRIVED AT. THE CAIRO MEETINGS WILL BE A STEP ON THE WAY AND WILL PAVE THE GROUND HERE AT THESE MEETINGS TOWARD THE ULTIMATE COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL. QUESTION:

MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU HAVE AN INDICATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS GOING TO MAINTAIN ITS ROLE AS CO-SPONSOR OF THE PEACE TALKS?

VANCE:

THE SOVIET UNION HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL REMAIN AS A CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. IT HAS INDICATED IN THE CAIRO MEETINGS. WE HAD HOPED THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THESE MEETINGS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE CAIRO MEETINGS CAN AND WILL PERFORM A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN PAVING THE WAY TOWARDS AN ULTIMATE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

QUESTION:
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MR. VANCE, WHAT IS THE AMERICAN ROLE IN THE COMING FUTURE STEPS, EITHER IN CAIRO OR IN GENEVA OR IN THE FINAL SETTLEMENT? WHAT ARE THE AMERICAN COMMITMENTS?

VANCE:

WE WILL BE PLAYING A SUPPORTIVE ROLE TO THE INITIATIVE WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN -- THE BOLD INITIATIVE BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN.

QUESTION:

PRESIDENT SADAT, ARE YOU HOPEFUL THAT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE WILL PRODUCE A SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT THAT WILL COMMEND THEMSELVES TO SOME OF THE OTHER ARAB LEADERS IN THIS AREA?

SADAT:

WELL, WE ARE WORKING; I HAVE ALREADY PROPOSED THIS CAIRO MEETING TO WORK TOWARDS THIS END. INSTEAD OF STARTING DISCUSSING PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS IN GENEVA, WE SHOULD AGREE UPON ALL THESE POINTS AND PREPARE THE WHOLE APPROACH AND THE LAND, LIKE THE SECRETARY SAID, FOR GENEVA TO SUCCEED.

QUESTION:

MR. PRESIDENT, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT OF THE AMERICAN ROLE?

SADAT:

WELL, SOMEONE SAID THAT AFTER MY INITIATIVE AND AFTER I VISITED JERUSALEM THAT THE AMERICAN ROLE IS OF LESS IMPORTANCE, I SAY NO. THE AMERICAN ROLE AFTER MY VISIT IS MUCH MORE CONFIRMED, UNCLASSIFIED

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LIKE I SAID IT BEFORE. AND NO ONE CAN IMAGINE THAT IN THIRTY HOURS VISIT TO JERUSALEM AND HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELI RESPONSIBLES HAVE SOLVED ALREADY THE THIRTY YEARS, THE LAST THIRTY YEARS' DIFFICULTIES THAT WE HAD AMONG US. SO THE AMERICAN ROLE, AS I SAID, IS CONFIRMED RATHER THAN MINIMIZED.

QUESTION:

MR. PRESIDENT HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THE CAIRO MEETING WILL GO ON FOR? WHEN DO YOU THINK A GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD NOW BE CONVENED ?

SADAT:

WELL, LET US HOPE THAT THEY REACH THE END THAT WE ARE AGREED UPON, THAT IS, PREPARATION FOR GENEVA. THE TIME IS OPEN. THE DISCUSSION

ON ALSO IS OPEN. THAT'S WHAT I HAVE AGREED ALREADY TODAY WITH SECRETARY VANCE. REALLY, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS SKIP ANY FIXING OF DATES OR SO AS MUCH AS THE CAIRO CONFERENCE IS WORKING AND PREPARING AND PAVING THE WAY TOWARDS GENEVA. WELL, THE PEACE PROCESS IS IN MOMENTUM, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE AFTER, ALL OF US.

QUESTION:

MR. PRESIDENT, DO YOU NEED THE UNITED STATES' HELP TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL, OR WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF ALL THE NEGOTIATIONS YOURSELF?

SADAT:

WELL, THE UNITED STATES IS, NUMBER ONE, CO-CHAIRMAN. NUMBER TWO, THE UNITED STATES ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE OF ME AND THE ISRAELIS. AND THIS IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, BECAUSE AS I TOLD YOU, WHENEVER WE NEED TO BRING OUR DISCUSSIONS TO, I MEAN, A PROPER WAY, OR WHENEVER THERE IS A GULF BETWEEN US, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNITED STATES FOR SURE CAN BRING US TOGETHER.

QUESTION:

PRESIDENT SADAT, COULD YOU PLEASE TELL US WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE PLEASED WITH THE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO YOUR INITIATIVE THAT HAS RESULTED -- THE ISRAELI RESPONSE OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS?

SADAT

NOT YET. THEY HAVEN'T ANSWERED.

QUESTION:

WHAT SPECIFICALLY DO YOU WANT THE ISRAELIS TO DO AT THIS STAGE?

'SADAT:

I SHOULDN'T SAY IT BEFORE THE MICROPHONES AND SO FORTH. (LAUGHTER)

QUESTION:

AT WHAT POINT DO YOU EXPECT SYRIA AND JORDAN TO COME BACK INTO THIS PROCESS?

SADAT:

WELL, IN THE MEETING WE HAVE ARRANGED THEIR PLACES FOR THEM TO COME, AND WHENEVER THEY CHOOSE TO COME WE SHALL BE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE THEM WITH US. I TOLD KING HUSSEIN YESTERDAY AND I TOLD HIM TO TAKE HIS TIME. I'M NOT URGING HIM.

QUESTION:

MR. PRESIDENT, ARE YOU AT ALL UPSET OR DISMAYED AT THE CONTINUING CRITICISM OF YOUR INITIATIVE BY SOME ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND BY THE

SOVIET UNION?

SADAT:

NOT AT ALL. IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE, EVEN MUCH MORE VEHEMENT THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS TIME YOU REMEMBER AFTER THE SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT; FOR ONE YEAR AND A HALF THEY CONTINUED, BUT IT DOESN'T WORRY ME AT ALL. AND, UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS OUR HABIT.

QUESTION:

MR. PRESIDENT, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF SPECULATION THAT IF THE OTHER ARAB LEADERS DO NOT APPROVE A SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT THAT YOU WILL THEN SEEK A SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL. IS THAT ACCURATE OR NOT?

SADAT

NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL. I WOULD HAVE FULFILLED IT EITHER BEFORE JERUSALEM OR DURING MY VISITOR AFTER THAT. OUR, REALLY, AIM WILL ALWAYS BE A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

QUESTION:

.MR. VANCE, YOU SPOKE TWICE OF GENEVA AS THE ULTIMATE MEETING AT THE END OF THIS PROCESS THAT IS BEING LAUNCHED NOW. DOES

THAT MEAN THAT YOU NOW SEE GENEVA AS A PLACE TO RATIFY OR
CONFIRM AGREEMENTS REACHED PREVIOUSLY AND NO
LONGER THE PLACE WHERE THE AGREEMENTS HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT?

VANCE:

WHAT I MEANT BY THAT WAS THAT, AS BOTH PRESIDENT SADAT AND I
HAVE SAID, THERE'S A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE TO PAVE THE
WAY TO GENEVA SO THAT GENEVA CAN BE FRUITFUL AND PRODUCTIVE.
THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS
AT GENEVA.

QUESTION:

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MR. PRESIDENT, IS IT CONTEMPLATED THAT THIS CONFERENCE WILL
EXPAND TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS LEVEL IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO?

SADAT:

WELL, LET US HOPE SO. BUT THIS WILL DEPEND UPON THE DEVELOPMENT
AFTER THE MEETINGS TAKE PLACE HERE AND IT IS A POSSIBILITY. YES.

QUESTION:

MR. PRESIDENT, HAVE YOU AGREED WITH KING HUSSEIN ON THE PALESTINIAN
QUESTION?

SADAT:

WELL, KING HUSSEIN AND ME AGREE TO THE STRATEGY THAT HAS BEEN
ADOPTED BY THE ARAB SUMMIT IN RABAT. THIS STRATEGY CONTAINS
TWO POINTS. NUMBER ONE, THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LAND OCCUPIED
AFTER '67; NUMBER TWO SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, ALL THE
ASPECTS OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. IT IS NOT A HUMANITARIAN
QUESTION ANYMORE. PART OF IT IS HUMANITARIAN, I MEAN THE REFUGEE
PROBLEM, BUT STILL THE SOLVING OF THE PROBLEM ITSELF. SO KING
HUSSEIN AND ME, WHEN WE HAVE OUR DISCUSSIONS, WE HAVE DISCUSSED
ALL THESE ISSUES ACCORDING TO THIS STRATEGY.

QUESTION:

PRESIDENT SADAT, AT WHAT POINT TO YOU EXPECT TO BRING THE
PALESTINIANS INTO THE DISCUSSIONS?

SADAT

WELL, LET ME SAY THIS. WE ARE READY TO HAVE THEM WITH US; THEIR
PLACE WILL BE PREPARED FOR THEM WHENEVER THEY CHOOSE TO COME.

QUESTION:

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MR. PRESIDENT, BACK IN 1973 THE WHOLE IDEA OF HAVING CO-CHAIRMEN AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS THE CLOSEST FRIEND OF YOUR ENEMY ISRAEL AND THE SOVIET UNION WAS THOUGHT TO BE THE CLOSEST FRIEND OF EGYPT. HAVE EVENTS MOVED SO FAST, HAS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MOSCOW, CHANGED SO MUCH THAT THIS STRUCTURE IS NO LONGER USEFUL?

SADAT:

I FEAR THAT YOU ARE NOT FOLLOWING WHAT IS HAPPENING REALLY. MY DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION WERE LONG BEFORE THE OCTOBER WAR. AND ON THIS SAME ISSUE THEY WANTED TO BE MY SPOKESMAN OR MY GUARDIAN. AND I REFUSED. AND I STILL REFUSE THIS. THIS HAS HAPPENED LONG BEFORE THE OCTOBER WAR AND CONTINUED AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR.

QUESTION:

(INAUDIBLE)...

RABAT SUMMIT DECISION ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS, THAT RABAT DECISION TO WHICH YOU REFER, THAT THE PLO IS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS. IS IT TRUE, STILL NOW, FOR YOU?

SADAT:

THAT THE P.L.O. IS THE REPRESENTATIVE? YES. YES, YES. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE IN ITS DECISIONS HAS CANCELED THIS.

QUESTION:

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MR. PRESIDENT, DID YOU ASK MR. VANCE THIS MORNING FOR SPECIFIC HELP ON PREPARING THE AGENDA FOR THE CAIRO CONFERENCE?

SADAT:

WELL, I MUST TELL YOU THIS, WE ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT EXCHANGING POINTS OF VIEW ALL THE TIME. BUT THERE IS NOTHING SPECIFIC THAT I ASKED THE SECRETARY TODAY. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE WHOLE THING AND ALL THE ALTERNATIVES.

QUESTION:

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU SAID THAT THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE HAD CANCELLED THE UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE RABAT CONFERENCE. IN WHAT WAY?

SADAT:

IN THE FIELD OF THE P.L.O. AND IN THE FIELD OF WORKING TOWARDS
A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BECAUSE WE HAVE AGREED IN RABAT TO PUSH
THE PEACE PROCESS TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS.

QUESTION:

MR. PRESIDENT, DO YOU MEAN THAT AFTER TRIPOLI, SIR, THAT THE P.L.O.
IS NO LONGER THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE?

SADAT:

NO, NO, NO. I DIDN'T SAY THIS AT ALL. I SAID THAT IN SPITE OF
THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE CANCELLED THIS IN TRIPOLI, KING HUSSEIN
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AND ME WE ARE STICKING TO THE RABAT DECISIONS.

QUESTION:

MR. SECRETARY, HOW HAS THE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL
AND EGYPT CHANGED THE AMERICAN ROLE. IN WHAT WAYS, AS YOU SEE
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HE AMERICAN ROLE, HAS IT CHANGED AND HOW HAS IT CHANGED?

VANCE:

FROM THE VERY FIRST AND FOR MANY YEARS THE UNITED STATES HAS
SAID THAT WE BELIEVE THAT A SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM MUST BE REACHED BY NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES
THEMSELVES. WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES
WANTED TO DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO FACILITATE SUCH DISCUSSIONS.
THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION. WE WELCOME DIRECT DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN THE PARTIES SUCH AS THOSE THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE
BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE
CAN TO FACILITATE THAT PROCESS.

THANK YOU, EILTS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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